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11/15/2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition, comprising:

a particle chain having at least two connected particles and a link that connects the at least two connected particles, wherein:

the at least two connected particles and the link are integrally formed of PVA;

the at least two connected particles include a first particle comprising a first polymer and a second particle comprising a second polymer;

at least one of the at least two connected particles has an interior region with pores having a first mean size, ~~and~~ a surface region with pores having a second mean size, and a body region between the interior region and the surface region, the body region with pores having a third mean size, the third mean size being greater than the second mean size,

the first mean size is about 20 microns or more of the pores of the interior region of the at least one of the at least two connected particles is greater than the mean size of the pores of the surface region of the at least one of the at least two connected particles;

the second mean size is about one micron or less;

the third mean size is about 18 microns or less; and

the particle chain includes at least one of the following:

(a) —the link having has an aspect ratio of at most about 1,000 and the link having has an aspect ratio of at least about 0.001; ~~and~~

(b) —a ratio of the diameter of one of the at least two particles to a width of the link is at least about 0.5 and the ratio of the diameter of one of the at least two particles to a width of the link is at most about 100;